

TOTAL ROUT OF THE FRENCH.

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selescope, commanded tho whole line to advance. The ordeï was exultingly obeyed: forming four deep, on came the British ; wounds and fatigue and hunger were all forgotten! With their customary steadiness they crossed the ridge : when they saw the French, and began to move down the hill, a cheer that seemed to rend the heavens pealed from their proud array, and with levelled bayonets they pressed on to meet the enemy.<sup>1</sup>

" Panic-stricken and disorganized, the French resistance was short and feeble. The Prussian cannon thundered in their rear, the British bayonet was flashing in their front, and unable to stand the terror of the charge they broke and fled. A dreadful and indiscriminate carnage ensued. The great road was choked with their *materiel*, and cumbered with the dead and dying, while the fields, as far as the eye could reach, were covered with fugitives. Courage and discipline were forgotten, and Napoleon's army of yesterday was now a splendid wreck — a terror-stricken multitude. His own words best describe it — ' It was a total rout!'"

It was now nearly dark: Bulow upon being joined by Pitch's corps again attacked Planchenoit, which he turned, and then the French abandoned it. He immediately advanced towards the Genappe *chaiutsfaj* and closed round the right of the 'French, driving the enemy before him, and augmenting their eon fusion. His troops came into the high road near Maisotx du Koi, arid Blueher and Wellington having met about the same time near La Belle Alliance, it was resolved to pursue the French, and give them no time to rally. The loss of

<sup>1</sup> An to tho iina-1 advance of the British. General Muffling, an experienced if prejudiced witness, says that tho advance was hazardous, "small masses of only Home hundred men at great intervals were seen everywhere advancing." Though Lord Uxbridge drew the Duke's attention to tins, the Duke thought the support of the cavalry was sufficient. " There was probably also a political motive for this advance. The Duke with his practised eye percoivad that tho French array was no longer dangerous: he was equally aware, indeed, that with his infantry so diminished lie could achieve nothing more of importance; but if he stood still and resigned tho pursuit to the Prussian army alone it might appear in the eyes of Europe as if the British army had defended themselves bravely indeed, but that the Prussians alone decided and won the battle." Surely also the Duke could not have refused his gallant mem that last glorious advance; they well deserved it. The position in which the infantry had fought was marked, as far ns the eye could reach, by a rod line caused by the reel uniform of the numerous killed and wounded who lay there " (*Muffling*, p. 250).